Vol. 2000 No. 2 April 2000

North Dakota Chess Association

Dedicated to Chess and Education
www.geocities.com/NDCA/

ND State Championship Tournaments Coming Soon!

[Brian Thompson] - The 2000 ND State Scholastic and ND Closed Championship Tournaments are both coming soon. Are you ready?

The ND Scholastic is scheduled for April 15 and 16. By now, you should have already sent in your pre-registration form and made your reservations.

If you haven't pre-registered for the Scholastic, don't worry, you can still play... you'll just need to get to the tournament site before the end of the registration period in order to play in the first round. I recommend arriving between 9:30am and 10:00am (the earlier the better) in order to be certain to play in the first round.

If you haven't made your room reservations for the Scholastic yet, I highly recommend calling North Country Inn & Suites in Mandan. We have stayed there for the last three years and have always had a clean, comfortable room at a reasonable price. Call (800) 464-0158 for reservation information.

The ND Closed, our state championship tournament, is scheduled for May 12-14. There is still plenty of time to pre-register and make hotel arrangements.

To pre-register, fill out the form on page 9 of this newsletter, and mail it to the address shown with your entry fee (the earlier the better). Your check won't be deposited until after the tournament, so there is no penalty for being organized. The more players there are who pre-register, the better chance the directors have of being able to start the tournament on time. Also, those pre-registered won't need to get to the playing site as early.

There are two hotels offering special 'chess rates' for this event. The first is The Doublewood Inn, where the tournament is being played. Their rate is $45 per night, up to four per room. Call (800) 554-7077 and ask for the NDCA chess rate.

The second hotel offering a special rate is The Expressway Inn. Their rate is $44.95 per night, up to four per room. Call (800) 456-6388 and ask for the NDCA chess rate.

For either of these tournaments, please bring your most recent copy of *Inside Chess* and this NDCA newsletter! The information on the mailing labels will answer any questions about your ratings and membership status.

Remember, these are *your* state championships! The best players in North Dakota chess come to the Scholastic and the Closed, looking to win a title or a trophy. See you there!

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NDCA Dues

NDCA dues are required of all chess players residing in North Dakota that play in USCF rated tournaments. Annual membership dues are $7 per year, or $5 for ages 18 and under. Please check the membership expiration date on your newsletter mailing label! Don't miss the next issue by letting your NDCA membership expire!

Dues, Chess Club Announcements, Tournament Announcements, game scores, and comments for the June 2000 newsletter should be sent to:

Brian E. Thompson
1257 North 3rd Street
Fargo, ND 58102-2726
or **brianethompson@yahoo.com**

Please remit dues by May 25, 2000 to allow time for processing. Materials submitted for inclusion in the June 2000 newsletter must be received by 5:00pm on May 30th.

Chess Clubs

The **ChessNuts Chess Club** meets every Friday night at the downtown Moorhead Subway from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. There are no fees or dues of any kind. Club ratings are generated based on G/15 results. For more information, contact Brian Thompson at (701) 298-0602.

The **UND Chess Club** meets Wednesday nights at 7:00p.m. in the Mandan room of the Student Union Building. There are no fees or dues of any kind. For more information, contact Dale Sailer at (701) 775-6692.

The **Bis-Man Chess Club** meets Thursday nights at 7:00p.m. at the Bismarck Barnes & Nobel Book Store. There are no fees or dues of any kind. Club ratings are generated based on club game results. For more information, contact Nolyn Falcon at (710) 223-9102.

Tournament Schedule

2000 ND Scholastic - April 15-16, 2000 at Mandan High School, Mandan. Four sections: High School (grades 10-12), Junior High (grades 7-9), Middle School (grades 4-6), and Primary School (grades 1-3). EF: $5 per player, NDCA membership required of High School and Junior High players. For more information, contact Brian Thompson at (701) 298-0602.

2000 ND Closed - May 12-14, 2000 at the Doublewood Inn, Bismarck.

Friday (May 12): Speed Chess Round Robin Tournament. Registration from 7:00pm to 7:20 pm with the first round beginning at 7:30pm. EF: $1.00 (winner takes all prize fund). NDCA membership required. Unrated.

Saturday (May 13): North Dakota Championship Tournament. Register at the Friday night Speed Tournament, or from 8:00am to 9:00am Saturday. EF: $25.00, with a $5 discount to those staying at the Doublewood Inn (room number required for discount). Juniors (18 and under) and Seniors (55 and over) receive a $5 discount. Six round, Swiss System computer pairing.

Saturday: 10am (G/60M), 1pm (G/90M), 4pm (G/90M), 8pm (G/2H).

Sunday: 9am (G/2H), 2pm (G/2H).

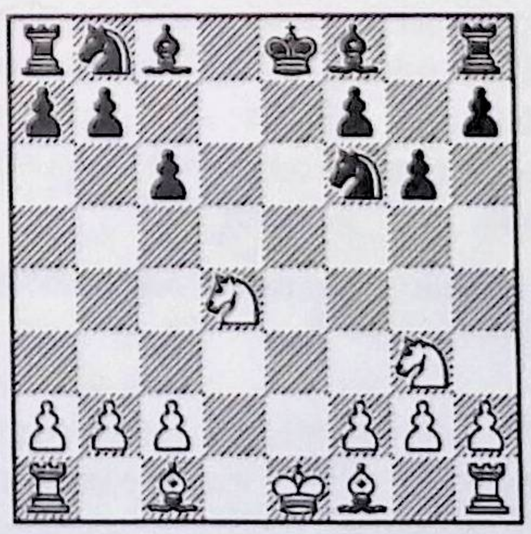
If all games in a round finish early, the directors will adjust the start times of the following rounds in order to finish each days' events as early as possible. One ½ point bye is available for rounds 1 thru 5 (notify the director before the start of the first round). Both USCF and NDCA memberships required. For more information, contact Brian Thompson at (701) 298-0602. Please see page 9 of this issue for the pre-registration form.

Chess With Glen

"Rooks and Pawns: A Classical Confrontation"

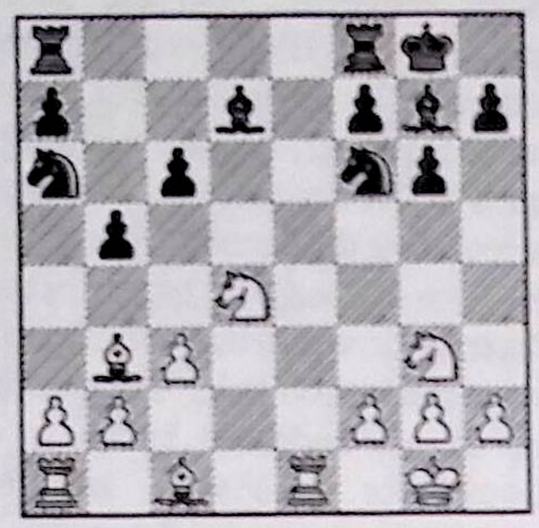
[Rev. Glen Proechel] - After twice winning the Minnesota Championship (age 55 and over), I was dethroned in the 1999 event by a relative newcomer to the Minnesota chess scene, Milan Chorkovitch (a Bosnian refugee now residing in Duluth). Chorkovitch, who is a USCF Expert, scored 3½-½, drawing with me in the fourth round. I finished second with 3-1, having one other draw with Laszlo Ficsor. Mr. Ficsor emigrated from Hungary after the 1956 revolution under Premier Imre Nagy was crushed by Soviet tanks. Laszlo is a one-time U.S. Ameteur Champion, former NM, and was the highest rated competitor in the MN Senior event at 2160 We have had a number of contests over the years, but this was our first meeting in decades.

1999 MN Senior Championships
W: Laszlo Ficsor (2160)
B: Glen Proechel (1933)
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 (This move has been my trademark in the Caro-Kann for decades. The move used to be considered inferior because 5.Nxf6+ forces a double pawn for Black. Some afficionados will answer with 5...gxf6 intending an attack on the open g file. I prefer 5...exf6 which is much subtler. I have had great success with this opening against players ranging from Mikhael Tal and Edmar Mednis to the average club player.) **5.Ng3** (This response is met occasionally from players who want to maintain the tension in the center.)**5...e5 6.Nf3** (The point of 5...e5 is that 6.dxe5 is met by 6...Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Ng4 threatening both f2 and e5.) **6...exd4 7.Qxd4** (Equally good is 7.Nxd4.) **7...Qxd4 8.Nxd4 g6**

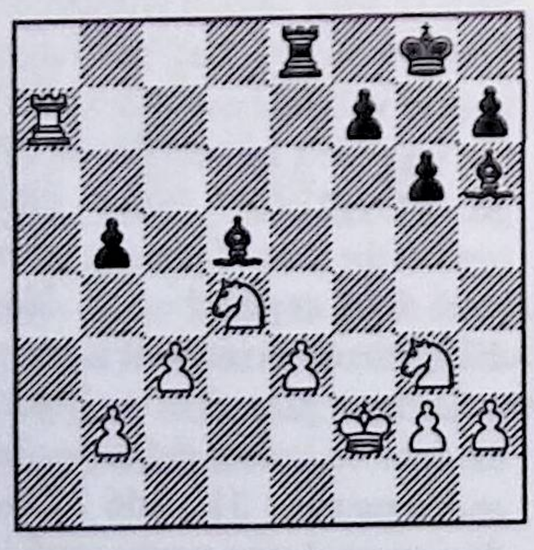


(Troublesome for Black in this position is that the white knights have a stranglehold on f5. 8...g6 neutralizes this threat.) **9.Bc4 Bg7 10.O-O O-O 11.Re1** (With the benefit of hindsight I probably would have chosen another means of developing. I could follow the sequence 11...Nd7 12.Bg5 Nb6 13.Bb3 Bd7

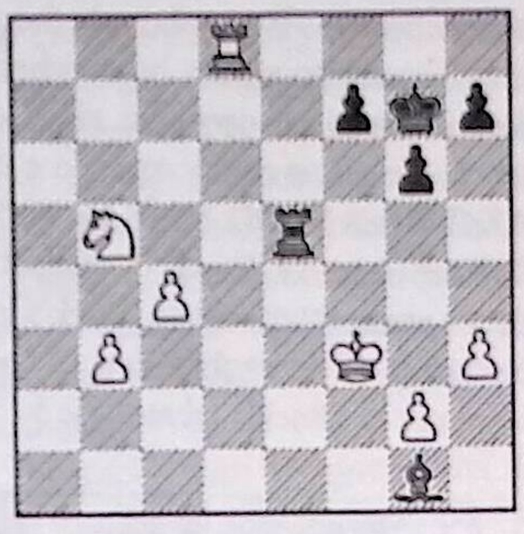
14.Re7 Rae8 15.Rae1 Rxe7 16.Rxe7 Ne8! 17.Re1 Re8 and the game looks very much like a draw.) **11...Bd7 12.c3 b5 13.Bb3 Na6?!**



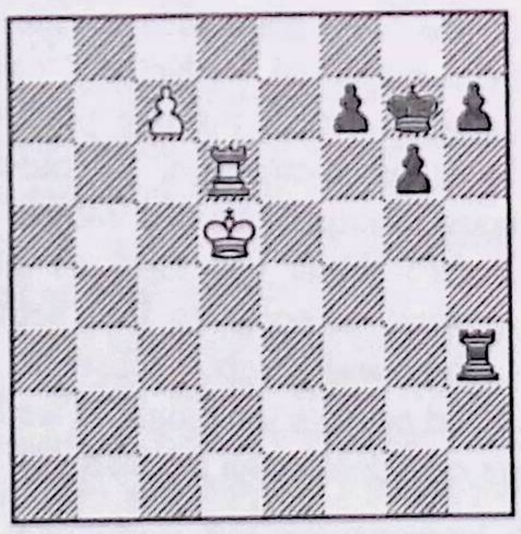
(In retrospect, I probably should have considered 13...c5 14.Nf3 c4 15.Bc2 Nc6 16.a4 a6 which should give Black good prospects.) **14.a4 Nc5 15.axb5 Nxb3 16.Nxb3 cxb5** (Black has succeeded in gaining the two bishops, but now what?) **17.Ra6** (White cuts off Black's two Q-side pawns and prevents them from communicating with each other.) **17...Rfe8?!** (Flirtation with the sac of the a pawn is not the best idea. A more perspicuous plan would have been 17...Bc8! 18.Ra5 a6 19.Ne5 Re8 20.Rxe8+ Nxe8 21.Be3 Bf8 22.Nge4 f5 23.Nd2 Bxe5 24.Bxe5 Ne7 25.Nb3 Ne8 with a probable draw in the endgame because of opposite colored bishops.) **18.Rxe8+ Rxe8 19.Be3 Nd5 20.Rxa7 Nxe3 21.fxe3 Bc6 22.Nd4 Bh6 23.Kf2 Bd5**



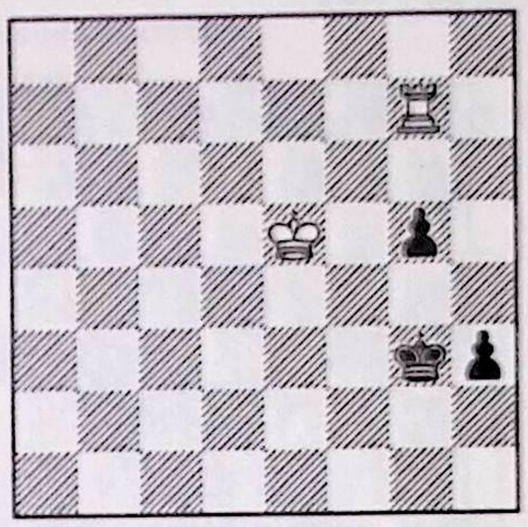
(23...Bc4 trying to hang on the remaining b pawn seems like a more practical try.) **24.e4 Bxe4 25.Nxe4 Rxe4 26.Ra8+** (With White having two connected passed pawns on the queenside, Black is now in deep doo-doo.) **Kg7 27.Nxb5 Bc1 28.b3 Re5 29.c4 Bd2 30.Rd8 Be3+ 31.Kf3 Bg1 32.h3??**



(Although 32.Rd3 drops a pawn, it preserves the two connected passers, which would create serious problems for Black. Now Black has a fighting chance.) **Re3+ 33.Kf4 Rxb3 34.Nd6 Rc3 35.Ke5 Rc2 36.Rd7** (This forces the exchange of bishop and knight to parry the threat of Rxf7+.) **36...Bh2+ 37.Kd5 Bxd6 38.Rxd6 Rxg2 39.c5 Rh2 40.c6 Rxh3 41.c7**



(The white c pawn is now one square away from paydirt! 41...Rc3 loses to 42.Rc6 Rd3+ 43.Kc4.) **41...Rd3+ 42.Kc5 Rc3+ 43.Kb6 Rxc7** (If Black fails to sac his rook immediately, he will go down the tube.) **44.Kxc7** (Now comes the moment of truth! What can three pawns do against a rook? Win, draw, or lose? Well, as it turns out all three results are possible depending on how accurately the two sides play.) **44...h5 45.Kc6 Kh6 46.Rf6 Kg5** (I don't know if this pawn sac is an error or not. I do know that to have any chance of winning OR drawing this game, I have to mobilize my king as quickly as possible. The black king must get to g2 before the white king to shepherd in one of the pawns. I do have the option of forcing a repetition of the position by 46...Kg7 47.Rd8 and then I might try 47...h4. If then 48.Rf1, we have an unclear position.) **47.Rxf7 Kg4 48.Kd5 h4 49.Ke4 g5 50.Rh7 h3 51.Ke5 Kg3 52.Rg7**



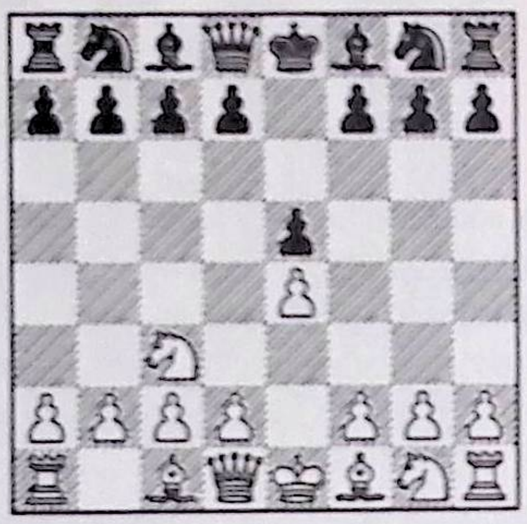
52...h2! 53.Rxg5+ Kf2 54.Rh5 Kg2 55.Rg5+ Kf2 56.Draw Agreed (½-½) (Also drawing is 54...Kh1 because 55.Kf4 is stalemate.)

Mike's Advice Corner

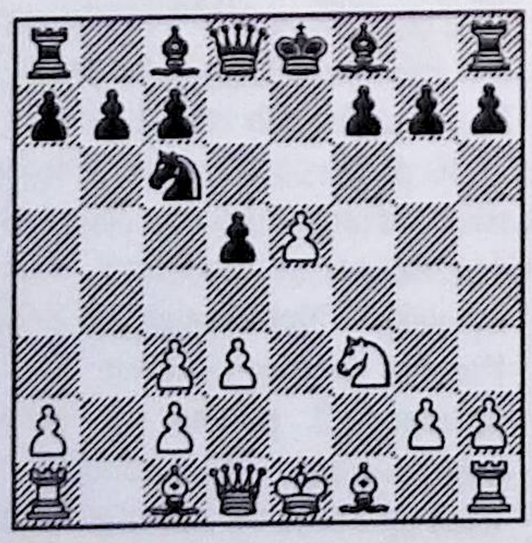
[Mike Sailer] - Nels Truelson has been one of the strongest players in the midwest for a number of years. I first met Nels at the 1986 North Dakota Open. He was rated over 2300 at the time and was easily beating everyone at the tournament until he faced Stephan Popel in the 5th round. Being a young 1300 player at the time, watching these two strong players was about the equivalent of watching Fischer and Spassky. Nels managed to figure out Popel's Center-Counter Defense and emerged 2 pawns up early in the middle-game. The problem was Nels used up about 90 minutes on his first 12 moves and quickly got in time-trouble.

Nels somehow managed to make time-control and transpose into a Rook and Pawn vs. Queen endgame that according to theory should have been an easy draw. However, Popel worked his endgame magic and figured out a way to win.

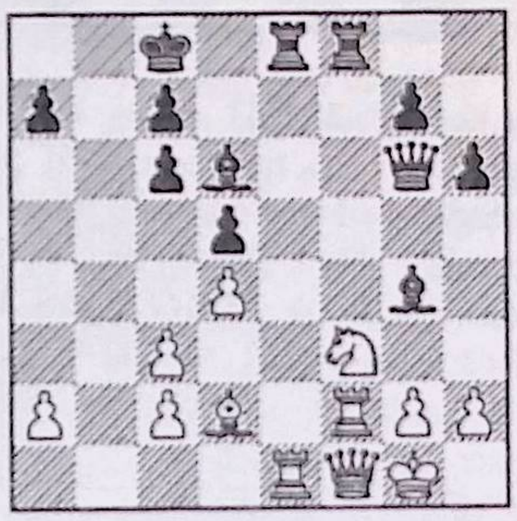
Dakota Open
W: Mike Sailer 2195
B: Nels Truelson 2220
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3



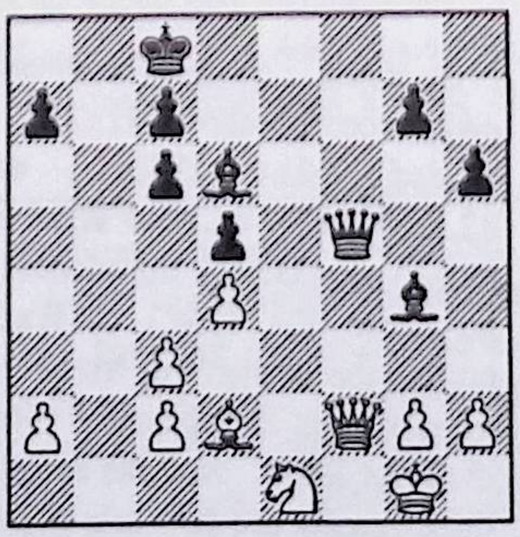
(I've often felt the Vienna offers just as good of chances for White as the Ruy Lopez. In addition, White doesn't have to worry about the Marshall Attack, the Schliemann, the Petroff, etc.)**2...Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6 d3 Nxc3 7.bxc3** (I've played this many times on the internet and at the local chess club. From experience, White needs to create some type of imbalance in the pawn structure in order to keep the game from petering out to a dull endgame. At some point in the game I should have played Rb1 to take advantage of the half-open file. I later suffered for it.)



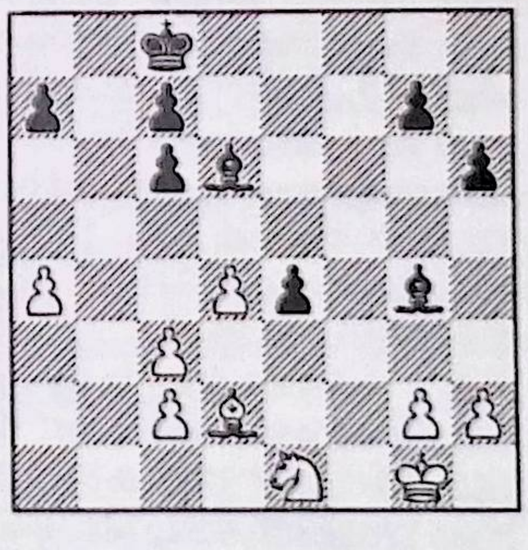
7...Bg4 8.d4 f6 9.exf6 Qxf6 10.Be2 (The bishop really belongs on d3 or b5.) **10...Bd6 11.Bg5 Qe6 12.O-O h6 13.Bd2** (The dark-squared bishop is normally White's problem-piece in this opening.) **13...O-O-O** (I was glad to see such a move. Even though the game never turned into a king-hunt, when both players castle on opposite sides of the board, the game rarely ends in a draw.) **14.Rf2 Rde8 15.Qf1 Rhf8 16.Bb5 Qg6 17.Bxc6 bxc 18.Rae1** (I should have taken a crack at attacking Black's king at this point. The exchanging of rooks is definitely to Black's advantage.)



18...Rxe1 19.Nxe1 Rxf2 20.Qxf2 Qf5 (It was at this point when I realized I had been outplayed by Nels. I have been saddled with 3 inactive pieces and a lousy pawn-structure. I knew Black could eventually force a trade of queens. Before White can think of swapping queens, he needs to first activate the bishop and knight. I had no doubt I could activate the knight. I wasn't quite as confident about my bishop.)

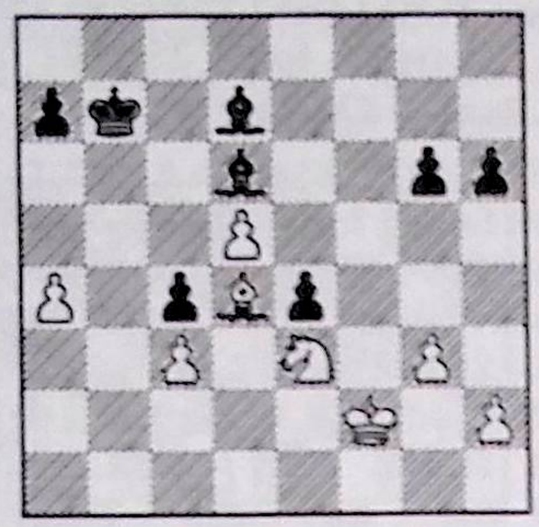


21.Qe3 Qe4 22.Qxe4 (Even though I didn't want to trade queens, I couldn't pass up this opportunity to saddle Black with a weak center pawn. If White continues to avoid the trade, Black's queen will completely dominate the board on e4.) **22...dxe 23.a4** (The position has been liquidated to a very tricky endgame. On the surface it appears that Black will be able to dominate the endgame with his bishop pair. However, despite the temporary inactivity of my pieces, I was perfectly happy being the proud owner of the only knight on the board. Maybe I'm the only player in the world that doesn't get much out of the bishop pair. Yes, I've read all the classic endgame books in which Capablanca or Fischer are able to completely dominate the entire board with the bishop pair. Whenever I get the bishop pair, it seems like I have to trade one of them off fairly quickly in order to eliminate my opponent's powerful knight. Regardless, from talking to Nels after the game, he felt he was near winning at this point.)

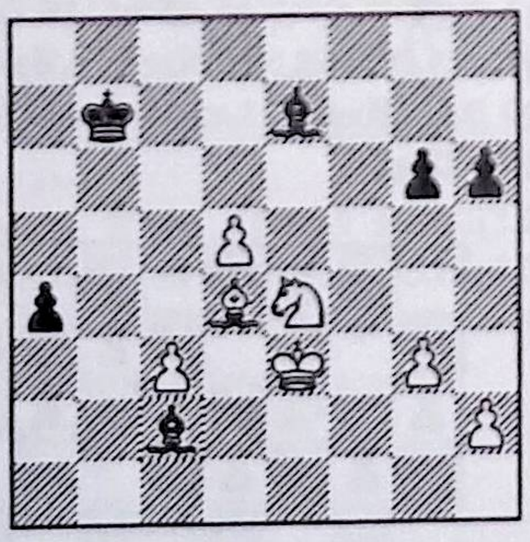


23...c5 24.g3 cxd 25.cxd 26.Be3 c4 27.Kf2 Bb4 28.d5 (Without this move, White's bishop has no future. The bishop will find a beautiful home on d4 the very next move.) **28...Kb7 29.Bd4 g6 30.Ng2 Bd7 31.c3** (This move breaks the rule of placing pawns on the same color as your bishop. However, in this particular position it is important not to let Black play c3 first. Black now has the dubious task of defending his weak c and e pawns.) **31...Bd6 32.Ne3** (After this move, I was pretty confident I was the only player with winning chances. White's pieces have completely taken over the position. Black will have an

outside passed pawn, but it is difficult for his bishops to support the advance of the pawn given the blocked nature of the center.)



32...Bxa4 33.Nxc4 (White now has an easily won endgame. Both White's bishop and knight are beautifully positioned. All White needs to do is simply capture the weak e4 pawn and advance the c and d pawns with the support of the king.) **33...Bc7 34.Nd2 Bc2 35.Ke3 a5 36.Nxe4 a4** (Black must eventually advance this pawn to have any chance of surviving the endgame. Unfortunately, the Black king isn't able to support the advance and with White's control of the center, the bishops cannot effectively support the advance either.)



37.Nc5+ Kc8 38.Kd2 Bb3 39.Nxb3 axb3 40.c4 Ba5+ 41.Kc1 (Once Black's b pawn falls, the position is hopeless.) **41...Black Resigns**

The Rest of the Story

[John Leitel] - Perhaps you've heard the story about the veteran master who had been engaged to play a six game match against an up-and-coming youngster. Wonder of wonders, the master lost the first game. The spectators crowded around to seek an explanation. "Aw," the great man offered, "it was just one of those things."

The master then lost game two. His excuse this time? "Well," said he, "you can't win every game, now can you?"

Came game three and again the master proved to be the runner-up. "Ah," he grumbled, "my opponent just got lucky." Game four -- same story: again the master was the loser. "You see," he told the few fans he still had left, "I wasn't feeling all that well today."

Now the master lost game five. This time his assessment of the situation was a bit more generous: "My opponent really isn't too bad a player," he declared.

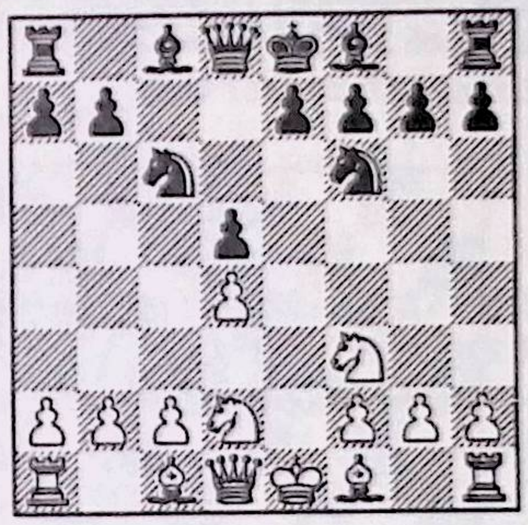
Finally the master lost the sixth and last game, summing up the disaster with these immortal words: "I may yet be forced to admit that my opponent is almost as good as I am!"

Years ago I lost both ends of a two game postal set-to with Walter B. Suesman of East Providence, Rhode Island. Do you suppose I might yet be forced to admit that my opponent was almost as good as I am?! Actually, I think we determined that a long time ago!

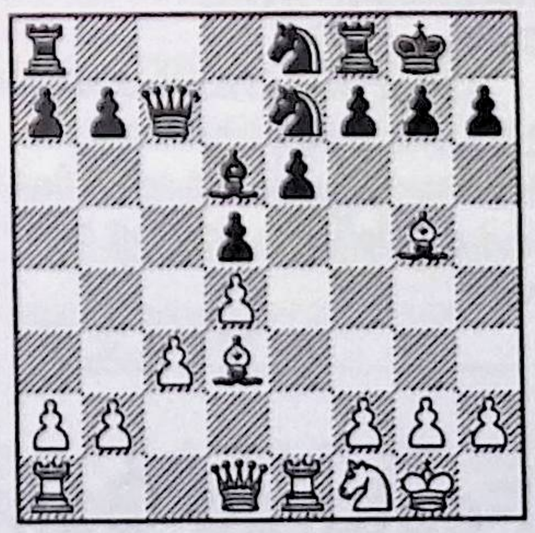
Suesman was perhaps the strongest over-the-board player I ever met in postal chess. Many times Rhode Island and New England champion, he even competed in two U.S. Championships (1938 and 1946). In those tourneys he defeated, among others, such international stars as Horowitz and Kashdan. He accounted for tournament winner Reshevsky's only loss at the 1944 U.S. Open. What on earth did I think I was going to accomplish against such a foe?

I originally wrote Suesman about some historical research I was doing at the time, whereupon he suggested we keep in touch with a couple of friendly postal games. When both concluded in his favor in under thirty moves each, he did not suggest another pair! This was perhaps the more interesting of the two:

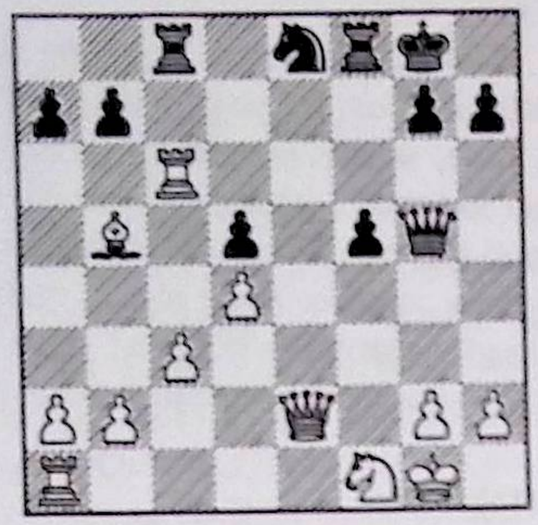
Postal Game
W: Walter Suesman
B: John Leitel
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nbd2 Nc6



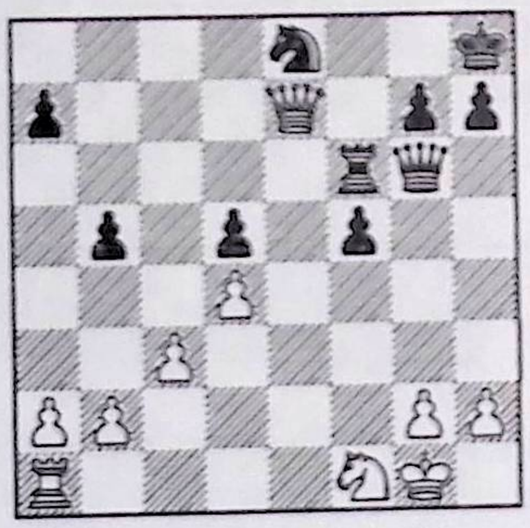
(How could anybody get in trouble out of an opening this inocuous?) **6.Be2 Bf5 7.c3 e6 8.O-O Bd6 9.Re1 O-O 10.Nf1 Ne7 11.Nh4 Qc7 12.Nxf5 Nxf5 13.Bd3 Ne7 14.Bg5 Ne8**



(Not a happy square for the knight, and it eventually gets into a lot of trouble through sitting here too long.) **15.Qg4 Nc6 16.f4 Be7 17.Re3 f5 18.Qe2 Bxg5 19.fxg5 Qf4 20.Rxe6 Qxg5 21.Bb5 Rc8 22.Rxc6**



(Suesman may have been getting on in years and even living in a nursing home by then, but he jumps right on that one! Once a master, always a master.) **22...bxc6 23.Qe6+ Kh8 24.Qxc8 cxb5 25.Qc5 Rf8 26.Qe7 Qg6**

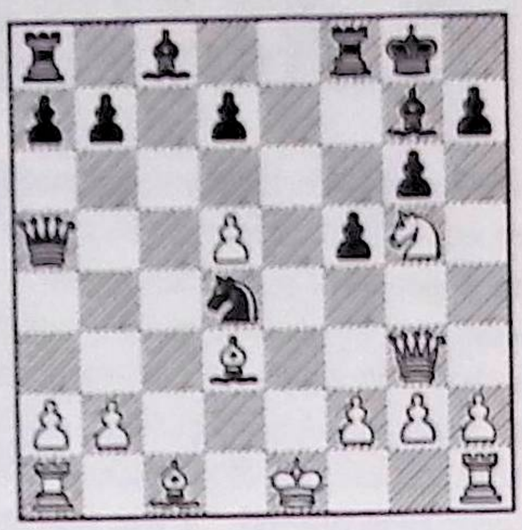


(There's not much to be done, as the knight can't move because of the back-rank mate.) **27.Re1** (Curtains!) **Black Resigns (1-0)**

Suesman died not long after that, but I'll never forget his helpfulness to me. He was a fine player and a fine man -- and maybe just a little bit better than I was!

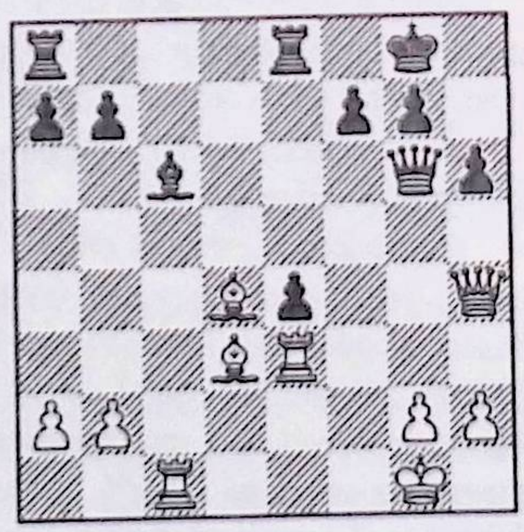
Featured Games

1996 ND State Postal Championship
W: Brent Askviig
B: Brian Thompson
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5 Nxe4 6.Qe2 f5 7.Ng5 d3 8.cxd3 Nd4 9.Qb5+ g6 10.Qh4 c6 11.dxe4 cxd5 12.exd5 Bg7 13.Qg3 O-O 14.Bd3 Qa5+



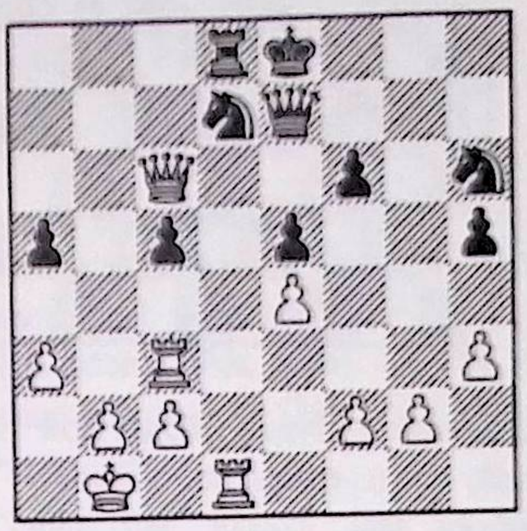
15.Kd1 Qxd5 16.Bd2 b5 17.Re1 Bb7 18.Nf3 Nxf3 19.Qxf3 Qxf3 20.gxf3 Bxf3+ 21.Be2 Bxe2+ 22.Rxe2 Rfe8 23.White Resigns (0-1)

1996 ND State Postal Championships
W: Cliff Berger
B: Todd Wolf
1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 Bg4 4.Nf3 e6 5.c4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 c5 7.Bd2 cxd4 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Nxd4 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Qc7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nxc6 Bd7 13.Qh4 Qxc6 14.O-O h6 15.Rac1 Qe6 16.e4 Nxe4 17.Rfe1 O-O 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.f3 Rfe8 20.fxe4 Qg6 21.Re3 dxe4



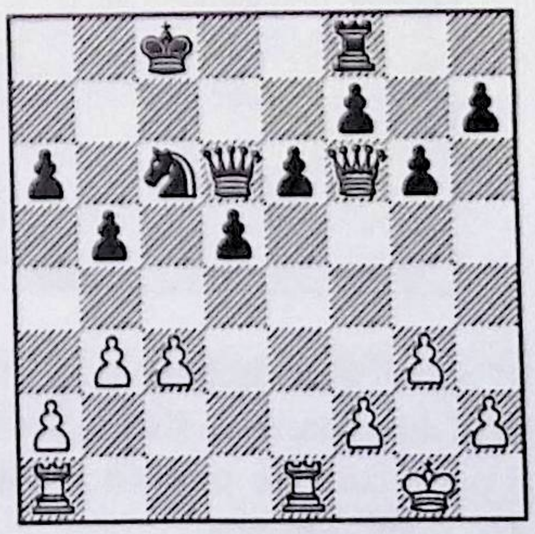
22.Rg3 exd3 23.Rxg6 fxg6 24.Qg3 Re2 25.Qxg6 Rxg2+ 26.Qxg2 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Re8 28.Rd1 Re2+ 29.Kg1 d2 30.Bc3 Re1+ 31.Rxe1 dxe1=Q+ 32.Bxe1 Kf7 33.Kf2 g5 34.Ke3 Ke6 35.Ke4 h5 36.Bc3 h4 37.h3 a6 38.a3 Black Resigns (1-0)

1996 ND State Postal Championships
W: John Allensworth
B: Chris Mulligan
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Bc4 d6 5.Be3 h5 6.h3 e5 7.Nf3 b5 8.Bb3 Qe7 9.a3 Bh6 10. Bxh6 Nxh6 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qd2 f6 13.Nh4 Qg7 14.O-O-O Nd7 15.Be6 Rh7 16.Qd6 Bb7 17.Nxg6 Rd8 18.Bf5 Ng8 19.Nf8 Qxf8 20.Bxh7 Qh6+ 21.Kb1 Qxh7 22.Rd3 a5 23.Qc7 b4 24.Qxb7 bxc3 25.Rhd1 Qe7 26.Rxc3 e5 27.Qc6 Nh6



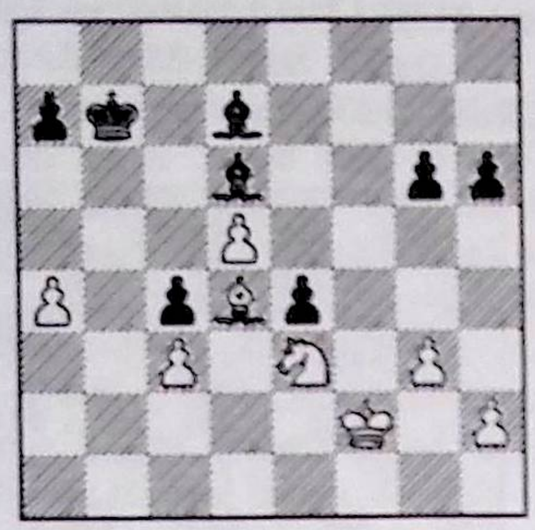
28.Rd6 Nf7 29.Re8 Qxe6 30.Qxe6+ Kf8 31.Rd3 Black Resigns (1-0)

1999 North Dakota Closed
May 22, 1999 - round 1
W: David Thompson (1249)
B: Clifford Berger (1867)
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Nxd7 6.Nf3 e6 7.O-O Bd6 8.Nc3 a6 9.Re1 Ne7 10.Ne5 Bxe5 11.dxe5 Qb6 12.b3 Nc6 13.Na4 Qa7 14.Qh5 O-O-O 15.c3 g6 16.Qh4 b5 17.Be3 Qb7 18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.Bxc5 Qc7 20.Bd6 Rxd6 21.exd6 Qxd6 22.Qf6 Rf8 23.g3

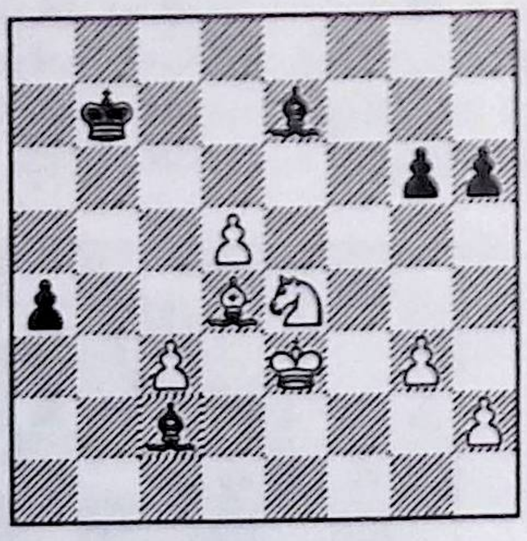


23...Kb7 24.c4 Nb4 25.Qc3 d4 26.Qd2 d3 27.a3 Nc2 28.b4 Nxe1 29.Rxe1 bxc4 30.Rd1 Rc8 31.Qc3 e5 32.f3 Qd4+ 33.Qxd4 exd4 34.Kf2 c3 35.Ke1 d2+ 36.Ke2 c2 37.Kxd2 cxd1=Q+

outside passed pawn, but it is difficult for his bishops to support the advance of the pawn given the blocked nature of the center.)



32...Bxa4 33.Nxc4 (White now has an easily won endgame. Both White's bishop and knight are beautifully positioned. All White needs to do is simply capture the weak e4 pawn and advance the c and d pawns with the support of the king.) **33...Bc7 34.Nd2 Bc2 35.Ke3 a5 36.Nxe4 a4** (Black must eventually advance this pawn to have any chance of surviving the endgame. Unfortunately, the Black king isn't able to support the advance and with White's control of the center, the bishops cannot effectively support the advance either.)



37.Nc5+ Kc8 38.Kd2 Bb3 39.Nxb3 axb3 40.c4 Ba5+ 41.Kc1 (Once Black's b pawn falls, the position is hopeless.) **41...Black Resigns**

The Rest of the Story

[John Leitel] - Perhaps you've heard the story about the veteran master who had been engaged to play a six game match against an up-and-coming youngster. Wonder of wonders, the master lost the first game. The spectators crowded around to seek an explanation. "Aw," the great man offered, "it was just one of those things."

The master then lost game two. His excuse this time? "Well," said he, "you can't win every game, now can you?"

Came game three and again the master proved to be the runner-up. "Ah," he grumbled, "my opponent just got lucky." Game four -- same story: again the master was the loser. "You see," he told the few fans he still had left, "I wasn't feeling all that well today."

Now the master lost game five. This time his assessment of the situation was a bit more generous: "My opponent really isn't too bad a player," he declared.

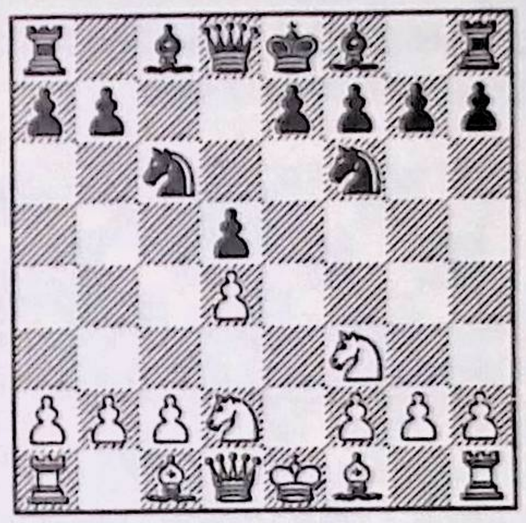
Finally the master lost the sixth and last game, summing up the disaster with these immortal words: "I may yet be forced to admit that my opponent is almost as good as I am!"

Years ago I lost both ends of a two game postal set-to with Walter B. Suesman of East Providence, Rhode Island. Do you suppose I might yet be forced to admit that my opponent was almost as good as I am?! Actually, I think we determined that a long time ago!

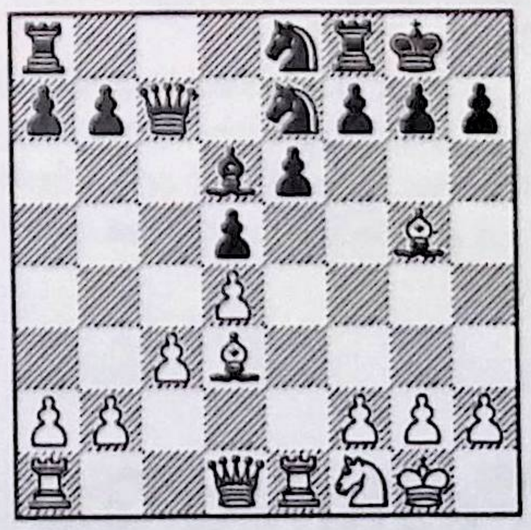
Suesman was perhaps the strongest over-the-board player I ever met in postal chess. Many times Rhode Island and New England champion, he even competed in two U.S. Championships (1938 and 1946). In those tourneys he defeated, among others, such international stars as Horowitz and Kashdan. He accounted for tournament winner Reshevsky's only loss at the 1944 U.S. Open. What on earth did I think I was going to accomplish against such a foe?

I originally wrote Suesman about some historical research I was doing at the time, whereupon he suggested we keep in touch with a couple of friendly postal games. When both concluded in his favor in under thirty moves each, he did not suggest another pair! This was perhaps the more interesting of the two:

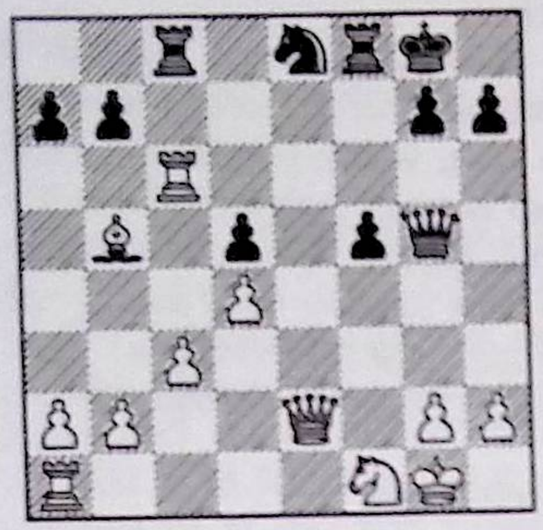
Postal Game
W: Walter Suesman
B: John Leitel
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nbd2 Nc6



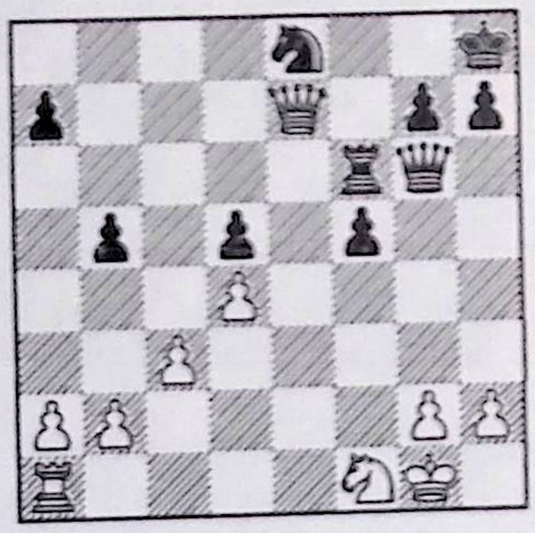
(How could anybody get in trouble out of an opening this inocuous?) **6.Be2 Bf5 7.c3 e6 8.O-O Bd6 9.Re1 O-O 10.Nf1 Ne7 11.Nh4 Qc7 12.Nxf5 Nxf5 13.Bd3 Ne7 14.Bg5 Ne8**



(Not a happy square for the knight, and it eventually gets into a lot of trouble through sitting here too long.) **15.Qg4 Nc6 16.f4 Be7 17.Re3 f5 18.Qe2 Bxg5 19.fxg5 Qf4 20.Rxe6 Qxg5 21.Bb5 Rc8 22.Rxc6**



(Suesman may have been getting on in years and even living in a nursing home by then, but he jumps right on that one! Once a master, always a master.) **22...bxc6 23.Qe6+ Kh8 24.Qxc8 cxb5 25.Qc5 Rf8 26.Qe7 Qg6**

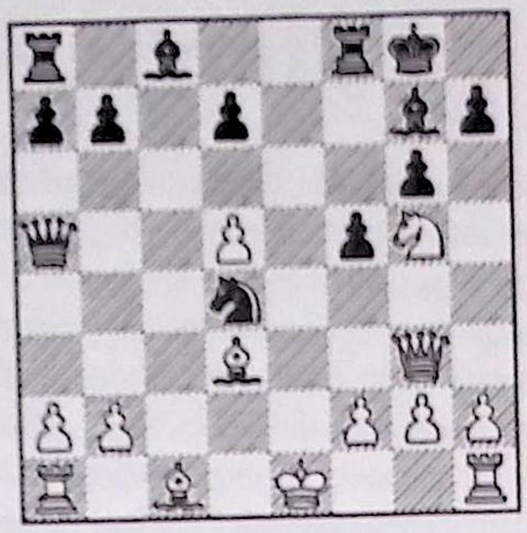


(There's not much to be done, as the knight can't move because of the back-rank mate.) **27.Re1** (Curtains!) **Black Resigns (1-0)**

Suesman died not long after that, but I'll never forget his helpfulness to me. He was a fine player and a fine man -- and maybe just a little bit better than I was!

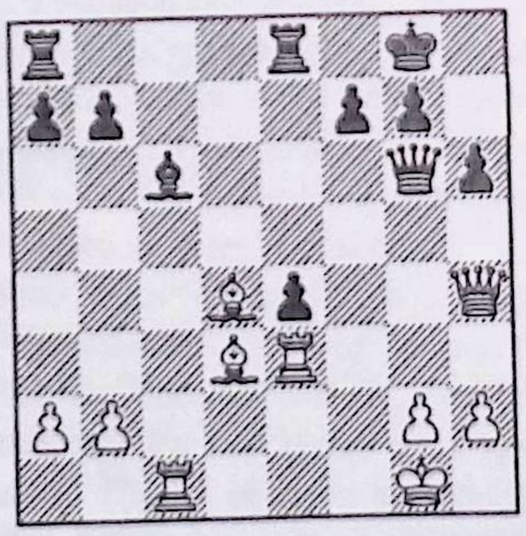
Featured Games

1996 ND State Postal Championship
W: Brent Askviig
B: Brian Thompson
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5 Nxe4 6.Qe2 f5 7.Ng5 d3 8.cxd3 Nd4 9.Qb5+ g6 10.Qh4 c6 11.dxe4 cxd5 12.exd5 Bg7 13.Qg3 O-O 14.Bd3 Qa5+



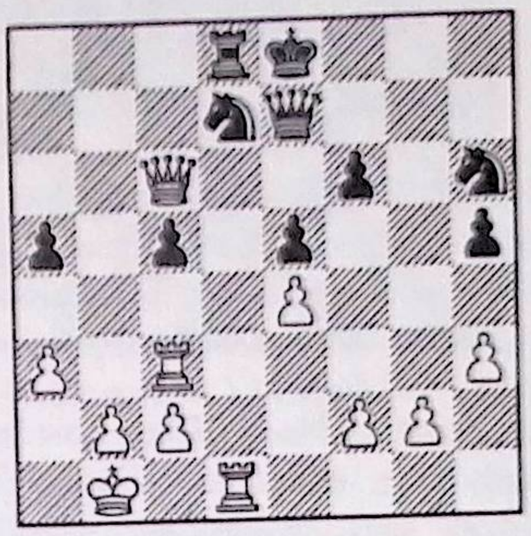
15.Kd1 Qxd5 16.Bd2 b5 17.Re1 Bb7 18.Nf3 Nxf3 19.Qxf3 Qxf3 20.gxf3 Bxf3+ 21.Be2 Bxe2+ 22.Rxe2 Rfe8 23.White Resigns (0-1)

1996 ND State Postal Championships
W: Cliff Berger
B: Todd Wolf
1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 Bg4 4.Nf3 e6 5.c4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 c5 7.Bd2 cxd4 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Nxd4 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Qc7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nxc6 Bd7 13.Qh4 Qxc6 14.O-O h6 15.Rac1 Qe6 16.e4 Nxe4 17.Rfe1 O-O 18.Bd4 Bc6 19.f3 Rfe8 20.fxe4 Qg6 21.Re3 dxe4



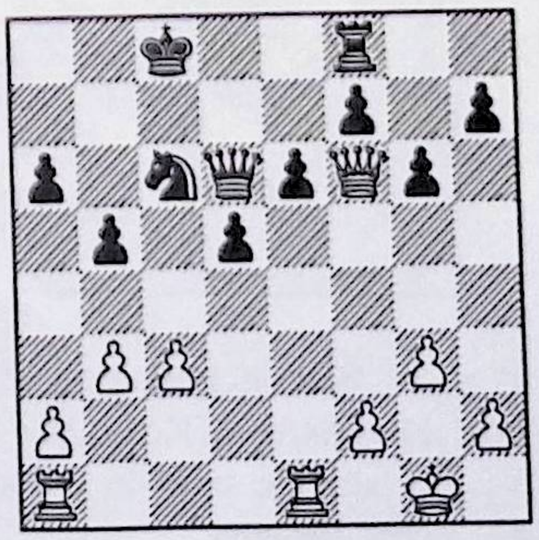
22.Rg3 exd3 23.Rxg6 fxg6 24.Qg3 Re2 25.Qxg6 Rxg2+ 26.Qxg2 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Re8 28.Rd1 Re2+ 29.Kg1 d2 30.Bc3 Re1+ 31.Rxe1 dxe1=Q+ 32.Bxe1 Kf7 33.Kf2 g5 34.Ke3 Ke6 35.Ke4 h5 36.Bc3 h4 37.h3 a6 38.a3 Black Resigns (1-0)

1996 ND State Postal Championships
W: John Allensworth
B: Chris Mulligan
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Bc4 d6 5.Be3 h5 6.h3 e5 7.Nf3 b5 8.Bb3 Qe7 9.a3 Bh6 10. Bxh6 Nxh6 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qd2 f6 13.Nh4 Qg7 14.O-O-O Nd7 15.Be6 Rh7 16.Qd6 Bb7 17.Nxg6 Rd8 18.Bf5 Ng8 19.Nf8 Qxf8 20.Bxh7 Qh6+ 21.Kb1 Qxh7 22.Rd3 a5 23.Qc7 b4 24.Qxb7 bxc3 25.Rhd1 Qe7 26.Rxc3 e5 27.Qc6 Nh6



28.Rd6 Nf7 29.Re8 Qxe6 30.Qxe6+ Kf8 31.Rd3 Black Resigns (1-0)

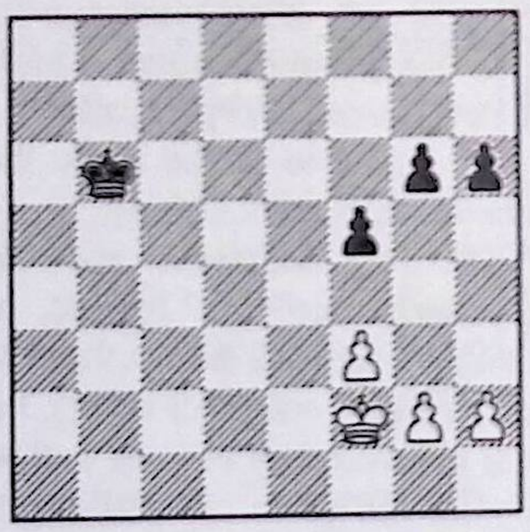
1999 North Dakota Closed
May 22, 1999 - round 1
W: David Thompson (1249)
B: Clifford Berger (1867)
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Nxd7 6.Nf3 e6 7.O-O Bd6 8.Nc3 a6 9.Re1 Ne7 10.Ne5 Bxe5 11.dxe5 Qb6 12.b3 Nc6 13.Na4 Qa7 14.Qh5 O-O-O 15.c3 g6 16.Qh4 b5 17.Be3 Qb7 18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.Bxc5 Qc7 20.Bd6 Rxd6 21.exd6 Qxd6 22.Qf6 Rf8 23.g3



23...Kb7 24.c4 Nb4 25.Qc3 d4 26.Qd2 d3 27.a3 Nc2 28.b4 Nxe1 29.Rxe1 bxc4 30.Rd1 Rc8 31.Qc3 e5 32.f3 Qd4+ 33.Qxd4 exd4 34.Kf2 c3 35.Ke1 d2+ 36.Ke2 c2 37.Kxd2 cxd1=Q+

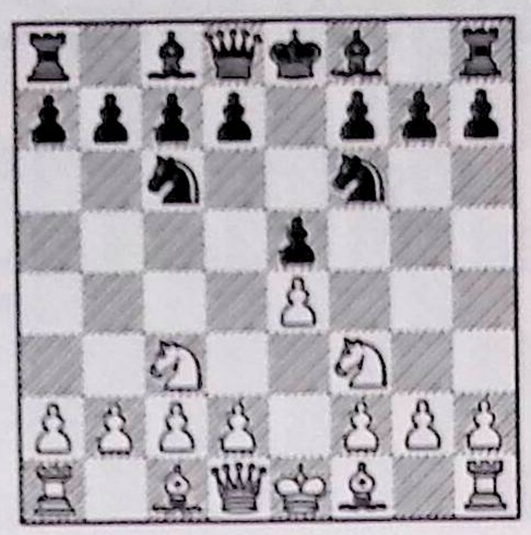
38.Kxd1 White Resigns (0-1)

2000 ND Open
February 19, 2000 - round 2
W: Brian Thompson (1715)
B: George Connell (1318)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5 Nxd5 6.exd5 Ne7 7.Qxd4 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.d6 cxd6 10.Qxd6 Rc8 11.Qd3 Ng6 12.O-O Bc5 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Qxe3+ Qe7 15.Qxe7+ Nxe7 16.c3 O-O 17.Nd4 a6 18.Rfe1 Rfe8 19.Rad1 Rc7 20.Bg4 g6 21.Re3 Kf8 22.Rde1 d6 23.Bf3 Bxf3 24.Nxf3 h6 25.Rd3 Nc8 26.Rxe8+ Kxe8 27.Kf1 Re7 28.Nd2 Kd7 29.f3 Re6 30.Kf2 Re7 31.Ne4 Re6 32.c4 f5 33.Nc3 Ke7 34.Nd5+ Kd7 35.Ra3 a5 36.Rb3 Kc6 37.Rc3 Ne7 38.Nf4 Re5 39.Nd3 Re6 40.a3 Nc8 41.b4 axb4 42.axb4 Kb7 43.c5 dxc5 44.bxc5 Rf6 45.Rb3 Kc7 46.Nf4 Rc6 47.Nd5+ Kb7 48.cxb6 Nxb6 49.Rxb6+ Rxb6

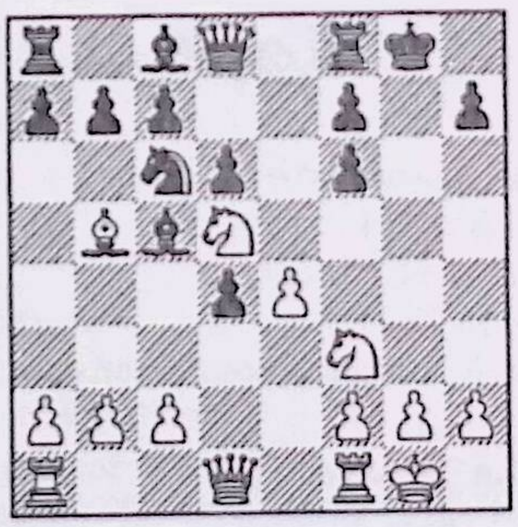


50.Nxb6 Kxb6 51.Ke3 Kc5 52.Kf4 Kd5 53.g4 Ke6 54.h4 fxg4 55.fxg4 Kf6 56.Ke4 Ke6 57.Draw Agreed (½-½)

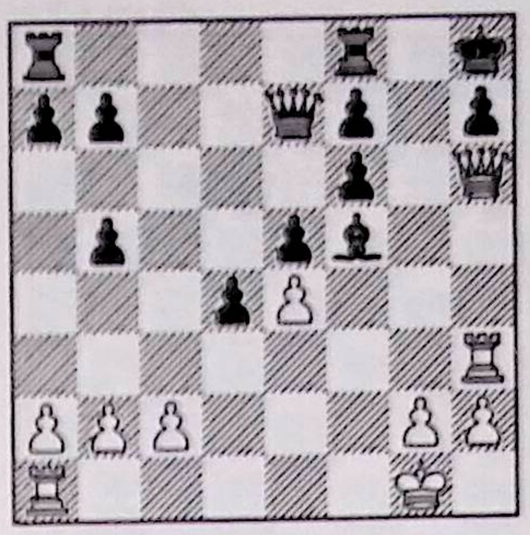
Casual Game
January 28, 2000
W: Glen Proechel
B: ChessMaster
(There is a certain satisfaction to be gained in defeating some of the modern chess programs, especially if there is some ingenuity involved. Here the computer is even defeated in a miniature!) **1.Nc3** (A long-time favorite of mine. Black has an embarrassment of choices, but sometimes can get transposed into something he didn't bargain on.) **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e4 Nf6**



(So now we've transposed into an old fashioned Four Knights Game.) **4.Bb5 Bb4 5.O-O d6?** (Up to Black's 5th move we were following a standard Four Knights Opening. This move is a blunder. One doesn't expect a computer program to make opening inaccuracies of this sort.) **6.Nd5 Bc5 7.d4** (White is cracking the center open for his pieces.) **7...exd4 8.Bg5 O-O 9.Bxf6 gxf6**



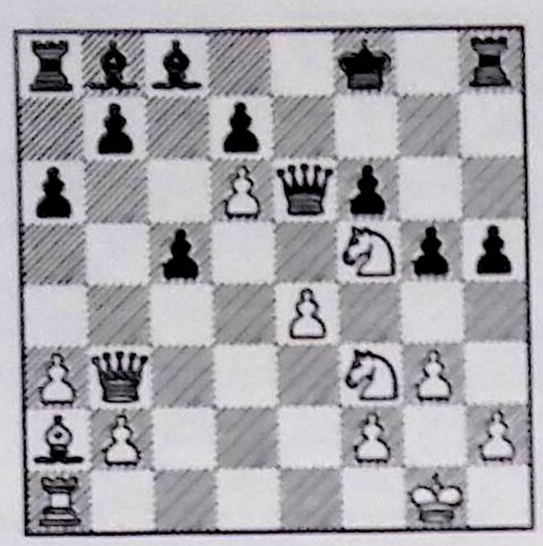
(White has succeeded in breaking up the pawn fortress protecting the black king - a significant accomplishment.) **10.Qd2** (Here comes her majesty! The threat is Qh6 - Nxf6+ - Qxh7++) **10...Ne5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qh6** (Threatening mate in two.) **12...Be7 13.f4 c6 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.f5!** (White ignores the threat on his bishop and threatens mate in three instead.) **15...cxb5 16.Rf3 Kh8 17.Rh3 Bxf5**



(Desperado move, holding off the mate for one move.) **18.exf5 Qe6** (What a delicious choice! Mate in one or picking off a free queen! Ah, well! Parting is such sweet sorrow.) **19.Qxh7++ (1-0)**

The Freeze
January 22, 2000 - round 4
W: Brian Thompson
B: Jonathan Daehlin
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 h6 4.d4 Bd6 5.Be3 Nge7 6.a3 Ng6 7.Ba2 Qf6 8.d5 Nd8 9.c4 c5 10.Nc3 Nf4 11.O-O a6 12.Nd2 Qg6 13.Bxf4 exf4 14.Nf3 f6 15.Re1 Nf7 16.Bb1 Ne5 17.Nh4 Qg5 18.Nf5 Bb8 19.d6 f3 20.g3 h5 21.Nh4 Qg4 22.Re3 g5 23.Nxf3 Nxc4 24.Nd5 Nxe3 25.Nxe3 Qe6 26.Nf5 Kf7

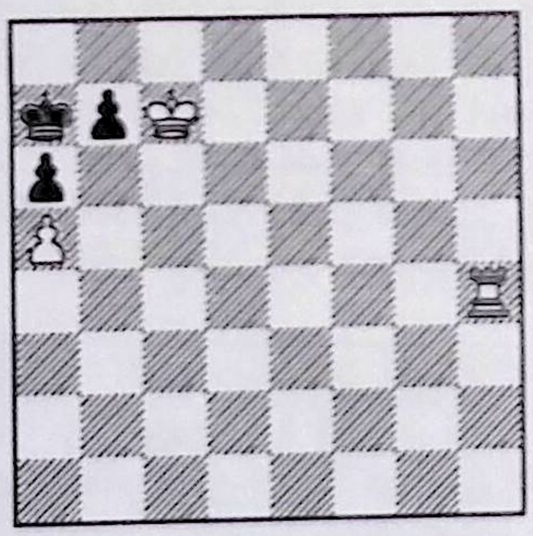
27.N3d4! Qe5 28.Ba2+ Kf8 29.Qb3 Qe8 30.Nf3 Qe6



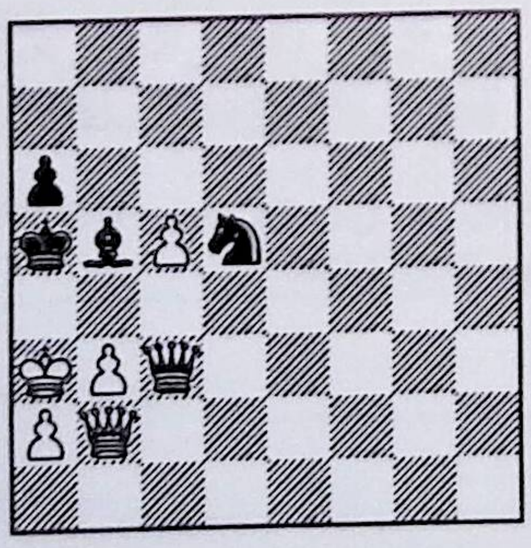
31.Qc3! Qxf5 32.exf5 Kg7 33.Nxg5 Bxd6 34.Ne4 Be5 35.Qxc5 Re8 36.Qd5 Bxb2 37.Qf7+ Black Resigns (1-0)

Tactics Teasers

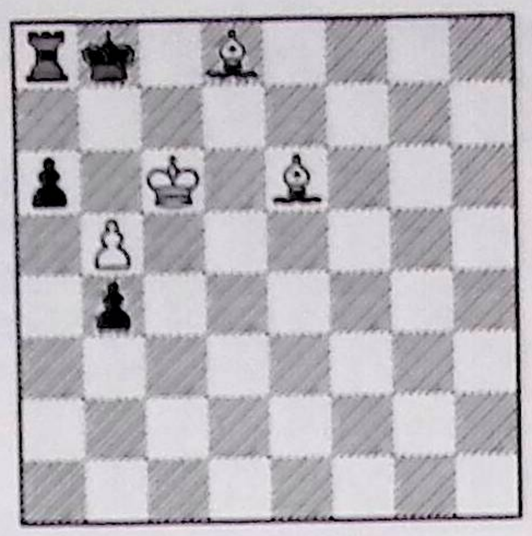
In the following positions, can you find the best move?



A. White to play, and mate in 2.



B. White to play, and mate in 2.



C. White to play, and mate in 2.

Answers to Tactics Teasers:

A) 1.Rh8! b6 2.axb6++ or
1.Rh8! b5 2.axb6ep++

B) 1.Qxc3+ Nxc3 2.b4++

C) 1.Bc7+ Ka7 2.b6++

Contact NDCA Reps

John Allensworth (President)
P.O. Box 214
Grafton, ND 58237
(701) 352-3708
E-mail: johnalle@polarcomm.com

Brian Thompson (Vice President)
1257 North 3rd Street
Fargo, ND 58102-2726
(701) 298-0602
E-mail: brianethompson@yahoo.com

Dale Sailer (Secretary / Treasurer)
3491 28th Avenue South
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(701) 775-6692
E-mail: dsailer@uffdaonline.net

Mike Sailer (Public Relations)
P.O. Box 10863
Fargo, ND 58106
(701) 298-2953
E-mail: mike_sailer@yahoo.com

Jon Sailer (Representative)
3491 28th Avenue South
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(701) 775-6692

Marvin Johnson (Representative)
P.O. Box 751
Minot, ND 58702-0751
(701) 839-7226

Todd Wolf (Representative)
Box 92
Milnor, ND 58060
E-mail: todwolf@sendit.nodak.edu

Cliff Berger (Representative)
177 10th Avenue East, #12
Dickinson, ND 58601

Post Mortem

[Brian Thompson] - In order to be published, all correspondence must include the member's name. Material will be included as space allows, and may be edited to fit the space that is available.

The ND Scholastic and Closed tournaments are the biggest, most exciting tournaments held in the state. If you can attend either (or both!), I think you'll discover they're both well worth the time and effort. You'll meet new chess friends, play very exciting and competitive chess, and become a part of North Dakota Chess tradition and history.

Will Mike Sailer retain his title of State Chess Champion? Will a strong player from the past (Cam Starr, Jerry Triggs, Michael Hjelseth, Bob Spiess, etc.) suddenly reappear to play again this year? Will you and your nemesis meet for a showdown in the final round? Can Matthew Faul repeat as the upset king of the Closed?

I'll see you there to find out!

2000 ND Closed Pre-Registration

2000 ND Speed Chess Championship - May 12, 2000

Site: Best Western Doublewood Inn, Bismarck
Registration: 7:00pm to 7:20pm at site only (no pre-registrations).
Entry fee: $1.00, NDCA membership required.
Prizes: Trophy for first place, and winner takes all prize fund.

2000 ND Closed State Championship - May 13 - 14, 2000

Site: Best Western Doublewood Inn, Bismarck
Registration: 8:00am to 9:00am
Entry fee: $25.00, NDCA and USCF memberships required. $5.00 discount to seniors (age 55 and older). $5.00 discount to juniors (age 18 and under). $5.00 discount to players staying at the Doublewood Inn.
Prizes: Prizes for 1st place, 2nd place, and classes based on the number of entries. Trophies awarded to 1st and 2nd place overall, and 1st place finishers in the following rating classes: A, B, C, D, E - unrated.

Schedule:

Saturday 5/13/2000

8:00am	Registration Opens
9:00am	Registration Closes
9:30am	Tournament Announcements
10:00am	Round 1 (Game/60)
1:00pm	Round 2 (Game/90)
4:00pm	Round 3 (Game/90)
8:00pm	Round 4 (Game/2 hrs)

Sunday 5/14/2000

8:00am	Business Meeting
9:00am	Round 5 (Game/2 hrs)
2:00pm	Round 6 (Game/2 hrs)
6:00pm	Awards and Trophy presentations

Pre-registration: To pre-register, send the COMPLETED form below WITH ENTRY FEES before May 1, 2000 to:

Brian E. Thompson
1257 North 3rd Street
Fargo, ND 58102-2726

If any of the information is missing or the entry fee is not enclosed, the player is NOT pre-registered and must register with a tournament director BEFORE the end of the registration period.

2000 North Dakota Closed Chess Tournament
May 13 - 14, 2000

Player Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

USCF exp. date: _____ USCF #: _____
EF: $25.00 ☐ $5 Senior discount ☐ $5 Junior discount
☐ $5 Doublewood discount

Total EF enclosed: _____

More Info: Contact Brian Thompson at (701) 298-0602 or email: **BrianEThompson@yahoo.com**

NORTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSOCIATION
Brian E. Thompson, Vice President
1257 North 3rd Street
Fargo, ND 58102-2726

FIRST CLASS MAIL

USCF10329353 88/88/8888
JOHN LEITEL
1721 SOUTH 7TH STREET
MOORHEAD, MN 56560